investigations carried out by National Institute of Communicable Diseases indicate that about 3-5% of the population are chronic carriers of Hepatitis-B.

(c) and (d) A committee has been constituted to examine the feasibility of introduction of Hepatitis-B vaccine under the National Immunisation Programme.

[Translation]

National Literacy Programme

4661. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount earmarked for the implementation of National Literacy Programme and mid-day meal scheme could not be spent thereon;

(b) if not, the total amount allocated for the said schemes during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) the amount spent separately during the above mentioned years;

(d) whether there were major shortcomings in the implementation of these schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The total amount allocated for the National Literacy Programme for the years 1993-94, 94-95 & 95-96 is Rs. 625.79 crores & for Mid-Day Meal Scheme is Rs. 611.79 crores. The amount spent under National Literacy Programme is Rs. 517.23 crores and under Mid-Day Meal scheme is Rs. 441.37 crores during the above mentioned years. Owing to the slow progress of literacy campaigns particularly in the Hindi-speaking States, and lack of response from State Governments for taking up specific adult education schemes, there was a shortfall in the expenditure against the allocations for the National Literacy Programme. The shortfall in the expenditure in respect of Mid-Day Meal scheme was in view of the fact that some State Governments took time to initiate the scheme in their respective States.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Vacancies of Lecturers

4662. SHRI H.Y. METI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has prescribed that only those candidates who have obtained Ph. D. or M. Phil. by December 31, 1993 are eligible for lecturership in all the colleges in the country, provided they have 55 percent marks at their Post Graduate examination;

(b) whether the teachers who acquired M. Phil/Ph. D with 55 percent of marks after 1993 are not being considered for the post of lecturers; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps proposed to extend the cut-off date beyond 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for appointment of teachers in Universities and colleges notified in 1991 and 1995, inter-alia, provide that the candidates for the post of lecturer must have good academic record with atleast 55% marks or an equivalent grade at the Master's degree level in the relevant subject. The candidates, besides fulfilling these qualifications, should also have cleared the eligibility test for lecturers conducted by UGC, CSIR or similar tests accredited by UGC, or should have submitted their Ph.D. thesis or completed M. Phil. degree by 31.12.93. The cut-off date of 31.12.93 was prescribed as a transitory provision for the benefit of those candidates who were pursuing their M. Phil or Ph. D. courses in 1991 when the above UGC Regulations were notified in the first instance.

(c) UGC Regulations notified in 1991 provide that the Universities can relax the prescribed qualifications with the prior approval of UGC on a case to case basis.

[Translation]

Requirement of Nurses

4663. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nurses required in India according to the norms fixed and the number of nurses working in various States, at present;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to fill the gap between the availability and requirement and

(c) the number of training centres opened in Madhya Pradesh for training of the nurses and the number of centres to be opened during 1996-97 and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) As per the Expert Committee Report on

Health, Manpower, Planning, Production and management, requirement of Nurses in India by the year 2001 A.D. will be 6.64 lakhs. There were 5.12 lakhs Nurses registered with the Indian Nursing Council upto December, 1994.

(b) Under the current Five year Plan the Central Government is implementing a scheme for the strengthening of Nursing services in the country, under which 10 schools of Nursing have been sanctioned during 1994-95 and 1995-96 in different States.

(c) 17 General Nursing Schools are functioning in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Proposals received from different States are considered, keeping in mind overall availability of resources and the commitment of the States to sustain the projects. There are no such proposals under consideration of Central Government in respect of Madhya Pradesh State during 1996-97.

[English]

Food and Drug Adulteration Act

4664. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have appointed a Task Force to suggest modification in Food and Drug Adulteration Act and in its implementation;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations and suggestions made by the Task Force;

(c) whether the Government have accepted these recommendations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELEFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The need to amend the prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 had been raised by various Associations including the food processing industry. A Task Force comprising eminent jurists, legal and technical experts was set up and coordinated by the Confederation of Indian Food Trade and Industry. The Task Force reviewed the framework of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules thereunder in the context of present day needs. The main recommendations relate to the infrastructure required to implement the food laws, adequacy of equipment in the laboratories; personnel employed for analysis, licensing of vendors, development of sound industrial practices and strengthening of the Prevention of Food Adulteration division. Amendments to the existing laws have also been suggested.

(c) and (d) Government have initiated action to obtain comments of state Government us the report of the Task Force.

[Translation]

Foundation Stone for Bridge

4665. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had laid the foundation stone for the construction of bridge over Chambal river to connect Pinahat in district Agra with Ambah in district Muraina;

(b) if so, the progress made in the construction of bridge till July, 1996, if not, the reasons for not starting the work so far;

(c) the amount provided by the Union Government for construction of the said bridge and the amount spent out of it so far;

(d) the amount provided by the State Government for the construction of the said bridge and whether that amount has been utilised and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the construction of the bridge connecting the two states is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Construction of the project has not started due to non-availability of funds with State Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) This will depend upon the priority attached to the work by the State Government.

Hostels in Delhi

4666. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of youth hostels in Delhi and their utility;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct more hostels for students in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) There is one Youth Hostel in Delhi, which is under the control of Youth Hostels Association of India. The hostel promotes youth travel and youth activity programmes.